



Educational Program

Educators

Grades 5-8

EP-2000-12-339-HQ

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

NASA Educational Excellence

We involve the educational community in our endeavors to inspire America's students, create learning opportunities, and enlighten inquisitive minds.

The URCEP program
is designed to capture, channel,
and enhance the interest of
educators and students in
science, mathematics, engineering,
technology, and geography.

Interested school systems may obtain
additional information by writing to:

**NASA Headquarters
Education Division
Attn: URCEP Program Manager
Code FE
Washington, DC 20546**

Urban and Rural Community Enrichment Program

launching young minds

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— launching young minds —

The NASA Urban and Rural Community Enrichment Program (URCEP) is a NASA Aerospace Education Services Program specifically designed to serve middle school students in urban and rural areas.

This three-day program is planned, coordinated, and implemented in participating schools by the URCEP team. Using simple demonstrations and scale models of aeronautical and space hardware, the URCEP specialists explain how basic scientific principles are applied in the exploration of aeronautics and space. Major activities include lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on classroom activities that supplement the ongoing curriculum. In addition, workshops and other activities are offered to school personnel.

The program exposes educators and middle school students from rural and urban communities to interesting and broadening educational activities. Special emphasis is placed on communications, logic, and reasoning skills that are curriculum related. Technical and logistical assistance is supplied by the NASA URCEP coordinator.

The program's involvement in the nation's schools has been extensive. Since 1981, 75 systems, 900 schools, 1,826 administrators, 10,255 teachers, and 940,314 students from urban areas have benefited from URCEP activities.

In preparation for the three-day program, NASA URCEP Specialists train core educators as a team to conduct interdisciplinary aerospace activities in school districts. Superintendents, with suggestions from principals, are asked to select core educators from schools in their districts. The core educators devote six weeks to working with the aerospace program in their schools, where they lead interdisciplinary teams of teachers in interactions with the principal and faculty. They also ensure that all preparations are made for implementing the aerospace programs.

The teams of educators that work with the core educators are selected by the principals of the participating schools. They must represent different disciplines in the school, such as mathematics, science, physical education, social studies, fine arts, and language arts. The number of educators participating on a team is unrestricted.

The goals of URCEP are to

- Motivate students to improve their reading, writing, and mathematical skills
- Provide greater exposure to aerospace in an interdisciplinary manner
- Foster direct educator and parent involvement in the aerospace education process
- Foster greater student awareness of careers in mathematics, science, engineering, technology, and geography
- Increase educator and community awareness of NASA resources and technical assistance programs that can be used as a supplement to the existing curriculum
- Raise awareness of multicultural contributions to aerospace

LAUNCHING YOUNG MINDS